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SUBJECT: BELGIAN PM PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE FURTHER SUPPORT
FOR LEBANON AT PARIS DONORS' CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 2781

[1](#)B. BRUSSELS 76

[1](#)C. 06 BRUSSELS 3834

[1](#)1. (SBU) SUMMARY: GOB officials have stated that Belgium will be represented at the January 25 Lebanon Donors' Conference in Paris by Prime Minister Verhofstadt and Minister of Cooperation and Development Armand De Decker. Although GOB officials confirm that Belgium plans to announce further support beyond the 5.2 million euros already pledged, officials were reluctant to disclose the details. END SUMMARY

[1](#)2. (SBU) On January 16, Econoff spoke with Hendrik Van de Velde, Desk Officer for Lebanon in the Belgian MFA, and Michel Lastschenko, Advisor in the Ministry of Cooperation and Development. Van de Velde stated that he would let the Belgian PM make the announcement, which he said would be much more than what Belgium pledged at Stockholm. He also stated that Belgium was reviewing the extension of a loans agreement with Lebanon. Lastschenko, meanwhile, confirmed further Belgian support, but stated that it is "far too early" to share the details.

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